

FUQUAY-VARINA HIGH SCHOOL BANDS - Matt Edwards, Director

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January 22, 2019

Dear Colleague,

Enclosed you will find information regarding the Central District High School Band MPA East. The event will be held March 26-28, 2019 at Garner High School in Garner, NC. CDCA continues to use regions to assign high school bands to a MPA site. We continue to offer the clinic option to high school bands as well. To find your assigned region and contact information for each region's MPA chair, read the information at <https://www.nccdba.com/band-festival---mpa.html>.

If you want the "MPA only" option (no clinic), attend the region to which you are assigned. If you are a high school in the Central or West regions and want the "MPA + clinic" option, apply to the High School East MPA. I will fill both MPA and MPA+clinic slots with Wake County schools first. If clinic spots are available at the close of registration, I will accept Central and/or West bands on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you wish to attend MPA in another District (such as attending MPA in South-Central or Southeastern District), you must place a formal request by February 1. To clarify, "Central District East" or "Central District West" are regions, NOT districts. Contact me if you need details about that policy.

During online registration you will be asked for your date preference. This year you may request to attend MPA on any day of the event - March 24, 25 or 26 - regardless of whether you choose "MPA only" or "MPA + Clinic". If there are special circumstances regarding a need for a particular time, let me know. I will do my best to accommodate your request. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to satisfy every request for date and time preferences. Date preferences will be granted primarily by postmark order.

We continue to offer our clinic option in addition to the standard MPA performance at High School MPA East. ***This year clinics will be available on all days.*** Eighteen clinic spots are available and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are bringing multiple bands and want to have a clinic for more than one band, you may request to do so. If I have more than 18 requests for clinics, I will direct those that have requested more than one clinic and ask them to prioritize which ensemble will band(s) receive a clinic. There will be a maximum of 6 clinic sessions per day. If we reach the East site registration cap of 46 bands and/or 18 clinics, 'West' or 'Central' bands seeking a clinic will be turned away in favor of 'East' bands. If we have clinic spots available after registration closes I will allow schools to add a 2nd clinic on a first-come, first-served basis.

Here is how the clinic works:

Bands will warm-up, perform on stage, sight-read, and be judged as they always are for MPA. For those participating in the clinic, the clinician observes your performance and sight-reading in addition to the standard set of stage and sight-reading judges. The clinician is not assigning a rating nor is he influencing your rating in any way.

After your group sight-reads, the clinician will spend about 30 minutes with you and your group discussing your performance, where you can go from here, and teaching you how to get there. The goal is to

work on fundamental concepts and develop rehearsal techniques that you can take back to your own band room. This may or may not be done through the literature you've just performed.

This year's clinician is Lt. Col. Jeff Warner, who recently retired following more than 20 years of service in the US Air Force. He was most recently conductor of the USAF Heritage of America Band, which is widely considered to rival the D.C.-based military bands in quality. Lt. Col. Warner taught band in the Florida public schools prior to his military enlistment and I assure you that he is in touch with the nuts-and-bolts of rehearsing ensembles at any level. He is very smart, knowledgeable and has a passionate interest in the rehearsal-clinic format. The clinic is meant to benefit both students and directors by working on concepts, not just the literature. For those seeking a clinic, start thinking about areas where you would like input from Lt. Col. Warner. Past clinicians have said that it is helpful to them if the director has a specific area where the ensemble or conductor needs guidance. Lt. Col. Warner has told me that he has a specific approach to clinics that ensures that not only will your 'face-time' with him in the clinic will be valuable, but that he will provide you with written feedback that you can refer to at future rehearsals.

The cost for the "MPA only" option is \$175. The cost for the "MPA with Clinic" option is \$250. While \$250 might seem like a lot for MPA, please consider that you would be spending \$175 anyway and you are not likely to get a conductor of Lt. Col. Warner's stature in your band room for only \$75.

The NCMEA Constitution has very specific rules regarding participation in one of its sponsored music festivals. There is a variety of information about the MPA rules, regulations, adjudication forms, approved literature list, sight-reading literature criteria and much more at <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>.

Continue to the next page to see instructions for registration and a checklist of reminders and procedures regarding MPA.

- To go out-of-district for MPA (meaning attending in another NCBA District), read and follow the procedure listed at the URL below. **This process must be completed by February 1.**
http://www.ncbandmasters.org/images/Attending_MPA_Out_of_District_11.7.15.pdf
- To go out-of-region for MPA (for example, you are assigned to Central but want to attend East or West), email the MPA chair for the region you want to attend. Receive confirmation by email. Then provide that confirmation to the MPA chair for the region to which you are assigned. Receive confirmation by email. Finally, provide both confirmations to CDBA President Robin Gorham via email. **This process must be completed by February 1.**
- To register for MPA, go to <https://www.nccdba.com/cdba-east--high-school-mpa--clinic.html>. Click the link to the HS MPA East registration. A CDBA Member Login is required to reach the registration form.
- After completing online registration, PRINT A COPY of your registration and send it, along with payment to:

Matt Edwards (CDBA East HS MPA Chair)
Fuquay-Varina High School
201 Bengal Blvd.
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
- Time slots are filled primarily on a first come first serve basis, so apply as early as possible. The schedule should be finalized by March 1st and posted on the Central District website.
- **The fee for each band to participate at MPA (no clinic) is \$175.00 if not participating in the clinic. For MPA WITH CLINIC, the fee is \$250.** A school or booster organization check or money order payable to "Central District Band Association" must accompany your mailed registration form.
- **Each Band Director must be a member of NAfME** in order to have a band participate in MPA. All Band Directors must bring their current NAfME card or a printed copy of the director's "Profile" page from nafme.org at the registration table on the day of the event.
- All members of the performing bands **must be enrolled in a scheduled, curricular band class at your school.**
- **You must provide three conductors scores of each of the two MPA-list compositions and your march. Present these at the registration table when you check in.** Selections performed that are out of print must have publisher's authorization before a photocopied score will be permitted for use. We will need to know about 2 weeks before the event if you will need to use the score service. In planning your music and securing your scores, please plan for this new requirement. Only scores requested ahead of time will be available on-site at the event.
- Remember to choose your music from the **official NCBA MPA list, which can be found at** <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>. Carefully check the latest version of the MPA list and the *List of Changes*. Each year there are changes and it is your responsibility to check the latest version of this list. If you are playing an arrangement, be sure the arrangement you've chosen is on the list. A few multi-movement pieces may be performed on different grade levels depending on the specific movements selected. If you are playing one of these pieces, carefully review the notes on the MPA list. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me for assistance.

- MPA judges are prohibited from guest conducting, rehearsing or evaluating a group in the same semester that they will judge at their MPA event. Do not enlist our MPA judges to perform any of these duties prior to MPA.
- Please review the judge's stage and sight-reading sheets as you prepare for MPA. There are rubrics on the back of each type of adjudication sheet. The verbiage on the sheets and the rubrics is designed to assist you and your students in understanding the musical qualities that should be present in MPA performances. If I might make a personal recommendation, consider sharing these sheets and rubrics with parents and administrators. They may be useful in educating these stakeholders in the importance of adjudicated events and the standards required for a highly-rated MPA performance. See the latest version of the forms under the "Adjudication Forms" heading at <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>.
- There is a specific script that the sight-reading judge will use. You can find the script at <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>.

TIMING:

Staging and Performance

- Level III and IV may not exceed 30 minutes of stage time.
- Level V may not exceed 35 minutes of stage time.
- Level VI and Masterwork may not exceed 40 minutes of stage time.

Sight Reading

- Level I Bands do NOT sight read.
- Level II, III, and IV Bands have five minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level V Bands have six minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level VI and Masterwork Bands have seven minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.

Warm-Up

- Level III and IV Bands are given 30 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level V Bands are given 35 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level VI and Masterwork Bands are given 40 minutes time in the warm-up room.

REPERTOIRE:

Each band must prepare a march of the director's choice and two compositions from the Official North Carolina Band Association MPA List. One composition must be from the registered difficulty level of evaluation and the other composition may be from the same classification or from a higher classification. If choosing to perform at the Masterworks level, only one Masterworks selection (as outlined on the list) and a march must be performed. Note that Masterworks is no longer a separate list. Instead, look at the Notes column in the Grade VI listings. A piece that may be performed as a Masterwork will be indicated as such. Note that a select few Masterworks are required to be paired with another specific work to be used for a Masterworks-level repertoire selection.

If you have questions about how your repertoire affects your grade level registration, do not hesitate to contact me. I'll be glad to answer questions about this!

SIGHT READING:

Sight Reading will be required of all bands (level II through VI and MASTERWORKS) and will follow the guidelines set by the NC Bandmasters. The sight-reading rating score will be included equally in the overall rating for all participating bands. Bands will read one concert selection and will perform for one sight-reading judge. The judge will make tape comments and use the MENC sight-reading evaluation form.

During the preparation time before the sight-reading performance, band directors and the students may clap rhythms, sing parts, count out loud and finger instruments, but they may not play their instruments. Only one band director may work with a band in the sight-reading room.

During the sight-reading performance, directors may call out letters or numbers and verbal cues (e.g “more trumpet”, “tubas watch”) but may not sing parts or rhythms while the band is playing.

Be sure to look at the sight-reading guidelines and judge’s script on the NCBA MPA website (<http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>).

COMMENTS ONLY:

Bands may choose to receive a rating from judges or to attend for Comments Only. A director may select the Comments Only format at any point up to on-site check-in on the day of their performance. Bands entering for Comments Only select a grade level, have the same literature requirements (a march and two selections from the MPA list) and receive the same adjudication feedback (recorded and written commentary) as rated bands. Judges for Comments Only bands make no reference to any scoring either in verbal or written form. Comments Only bands may request a clinic. Comments Only bands are not required to sight-read.

Attending in the Comments Only category can be useful for a variety of situations. Comments Only might be an appropriate stepping stone for new or growing programs or programs that are building a culture of excellence in second or third bands. It can be a useful option for directors at small programs with very limited instrumentation. It might be useful for experienced directors who are familiar with the standards for MPA performance but want an alternative approach to the process for them and their students. The MPA Committee suggests that directors not view the Comments Only category as a negative or as a means to avoid receiving a potentially mediocre or poor rating.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENT:

Judges:

Dr. Andrea Brown - Associate Director of Bands, Director of Athletic Bands - University of Maryland
Biography: http://www.music.umd.edu/faculty/music_directory/wind_and_percussion/andrea_brown

Mr. David Starnes - Associate Professor, Director of Athletic Bands - Western Carolina University
Biography:

<https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/fpa/music/faculty-and-staff/david-starnes.aspx>

Mr. James Kirkpatrick - Director of Bands - TC Roberson High School (Asheville, NC)

Biography: <https://tcrhs.buncombeschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=98561&pageId=732078>

Sight-reading judge - Benji Springs - Director of Bands, Greensboro College -

Biography: <http://www.gcmusic.info/team/benji-lee-springs/>

Clinician:

Lt. Col. Jeff Warner - Retired, USAF - former conductor, USAF Heritage of America Band (Hampton, VA)

Biography: http://www.ncbandmasters.org/images/USAF_HofA_Band_Page_2.pdf

Site:

Garner High School, 2101 Spring Dr., Garner, NC, 27529

Equipment:

Garner High School will supply chairs, music stands and podiums for both performance rooms. The warm-up room will have chairs, but stands are not guaranteed. The stage will have the following large percussion instruments:

- 1 Orchestra Bells
- 1 36" Bass Drum
- 1 Xylophone
- 1 Set of 4 Tympani (23", 26", 29", 32")
- 1 Marimba
- 1 Chimes
- 1 Vibraphone
- 1 Gong

Performing groups should provide proper mallets for these instruments, as well as all other necessary instruments. The sight-reading/clinic rooms will have all necessary large percussion instruments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com or (919) 601-8835 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

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CDBA East HS MPA Chair
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Greg Jenner
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